



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Western District of New York

Further inquiries: (716)843-5814

138 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14202

PRESS RELEASE

November 9, 2005

RE: UNITED STATES v. DECHAUN APPLEWHITE, ET AL.

Acting United States Attorney, Kathleen M. Mehlretter, announced today that the United States Attorney's Office, along with the Erie County District Attorney's Office, arrested seven (7) individuals for drug distribution and conspiracy charges. Those arrested include Dechaun Applewhite, age 29, Michael Zeigler, age 33, Horace Lattimore, age 30, all of Buffalo, NY, Anthony Drayton, age 29, Olean, NY, Amber Paonessa, age 21,, Chantel Watson, age 28, and Jacob Smouse, age 34, all of Niagara Falls, NY. One other defendant is expected to turn himself in tomorrow.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michael DiGiacomo, Dechaun Applewhite is currently under federal indictment for possessing over 50 grams of cocaine in March of 2005. While out under federal pre-trial release, Applewhite was intercepted over his telephone making arrangements with other individuals to distribute cocaine. During a search of Applewhite's residence, agents recovered several rounds of ammunition.

Michael Zeigler was recently indicted by a federal grand jury for being a convicted felon in possession of a weapon. During a search of Zeigler's house, by Buffalo Police and the Drug Enforcement Administration, agents recovered over \$10,000 in cash, approximately 2 ounces of cocaine and several rounds of ammunition.

The filing of the complaint was the culmination of an investigation on the part of the Buffalo Police Department, under the direction of Police Commissioner Rocco Diina, Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, under the direction of Resident Agent in Charge David DeJoe, Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Resident Agent in Charge Nancy Cote', and Federal Probation, under the direction of Chief Probation Officer Joseph Giacobbe.

Arraignment was scheduled for 2:00 p.m. today before the Honorable H. Kenneth Schroeder, Jr., United States Magistrate Judge.

###